

DURANT WEEKLY NEWS

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NUMBER 1.

SCHOOL LEVY IS VOID

Supreme Court Sustains Decision of Judge Hatchett As to Collection of one mill Levy Here in 1913

The Oklahoma Supreme Court, on Tuesday of this week affirmed the case appealed from this county wherein County Clerk McCreary was enjoined from extending on the tax rolls the extra one mill levy voted in this city for school purposes in the fall of 1913, thereby sustaining the injunction which Judge Hatchett granted against the collection of the extra tax.

In 1913 it was found that the requirements for the public schools of that year were greater than could be handled with the highest legal tax levy for school purposes which could be made with a vote of the people. This was in part due to the urgent necessity of improvements at the South Ward School House.

Consequently an election was called and held for the purpose of making an extra one mill levy, and the result of the election showed that a majority of the votes were cast in favor of the additional one mill levy.

Almost immediately after the result was announced Lawrence Lee and others filed a petition in the District Court asking for an order restraining the county clerk from extending the extra one mill levy on the tax rolls, in which it was alleged that the election was illegal on several grounds, most important of which was the fact that less than 30 per cent of the voters of the city voted on the question. This petition was filed by Attorneys McPherrin & Cochran and J. T. McIntosh. Judge Hatchett granted the temporary injunction and this was later made permanent. The school board appealed the case with the result aforesaid.

WHITE SLAVE CASE ?

Idly, Fifteen Year-old Daughter of Chas. Ehrig, Seen to Board Train and Has not Been Heard of Since.

Has Idly, the fifteen-year-old daughter of Chas. Ehrig, proprietor of the Raines Hotel, fallen into the hands of white slave dealers or did she leave home of her own accord? That is the question that is causing the heart of her father to bleed with apprehension.

Sunday morning at 2:30 o'clock the child was seen to board a South bound Katy train, and this is the last that has been seen or heard of her. When her disappearance was discovered by her father he at once began a search for her, and learned that she had gone south with a man answering the description of one who was here some time ago, and who, at the time, had a woman with him. They registered at the local hotel as man and wife. This man, it is reported, later made advances toward the girl while here, but Mr. Ehrig informed the reported that he would not allow him to see the girl, as he considered him unworthy of any girl. Of late the girl has been receiving letters, so Mr. Ehrig finds out, from the man, and it is presumed that he is guilty of carrying the child away from her home. In fact, the girl informed her brother a few days ago that she was going to leave Durant and go to Paris but nothing was thought of this until the child had gone.

Chief Simms went to Denison Sunday at noon, but he could find no trace of the pair although he made a search of several houses at Denison and Sherman and phoned to Paris and a number of other towns.

It is thought the girls might have been taken to Dallas. Mr. Ehrig is fearful that his child has fallen into the hands of white slave dealers and is making every effort to locate her. He is advertising in the papers in the larger cities of the country in the hope that someone may see the child and return her to him. He is of the opinion that she has been carried to some large city by the man.

The girl had been waiting on the tables at the Raines Hotel and was rather small for her age.

Mr. Ehrig states that she was inveigled off from her home, for she never made complaints about her home life, and seemed to be perfectly satisfied to live at home.

Special Sale on Manhattan Shirts now in progress at the Model. W-A

McCRORY IS SPEAKER

Legislature Met Monday Morning; Much Work Ahead of Body; Farmers' Caucus Formed.

Oklahoma's fifth legislature, which assembled today will have no chairman. This is due to the fact that the laws provide no such places and there are to be no more jobs in the legislature than the law allows. The Legislature is inclined to follow the advice of Governor Williams as to these economies and it has developed that the cost of the employees in the House alone would be \$150 a day less than heretofore in wages alone by reason of the Governor's salutary advice coupled with the admonition that the veto is waiting any excesses.

House democrats caucused Monday and made nomination of A. McCrory of Ringling for speaker and W. A. Durant of Durant, speaker pro tempore. Tom W. Hunter of Hugo was chosen chairman of the caucus and C. C. Childers of Enid was selected as secretary. The nomination of McCrory is made by Paul Nesbitt of McAlester. It was seconded by practically every member of the caucus and the vote was unanimous and enthusiastic. This sort of a thing never happened before in Oklahoma. The caucus was called to order by Luther Hanson of Wowoka, a party leader of the Administration.

W. A. Durant was nominated for speaker pro tempore by Benjamin F. Harrison, the man who was opposed by Governor Williams for the speakership and the election was unanimous. Harrison talked harmony and service in his address. Durant made what may be called the keynote speech in which there appeared the adumbration of caucus rule and harmony, under pressure if necessary. It may be assumed that the caucus is to be more potent in Oklahoma legislation this year than ever before. The address by McCrory was brief and to the point. He said he would go into the office with clean hands; not tied in any manner by promises.

H. L. Sadler of Norman was nominated by the Democrats for Sergeant-at-Arms. His assistants, chosen from a considerable field are Silas W. Cope of Seminole county and Jno. F. Jenkins of Caddo county.

Republicans of the house held a caucus Monday afternoon and elected Jesse Norton of Oklahoma City for speaker. Norton was speaker of one of the territorial legislatures at the time when the republicans controlled Oklahoma. Ed Ingram of Kingfisher was nominated as Chief Clerk, George H. Dodson of Oklahoma county was nominated as sergeant at arms.

An organization of farmers in the House was affected Monday afternoon to be known as the farmers caucus of the House. Twenty members participated in the caucus. Its object is to look to the real interests of the farmers through the cooperation of the real farmers in the legislature. Frank Carpenter of Bridgeport was made chairman of the caucus. R. R. Fitzgerald of Hobart was made secretary. A committee of three to look after the interests of the farmers in the appointment of committees was appointed composed of Representatives Simpson, Hendon, and Moore.

Oklahoman is Arrested in Mexico.

Mrs. J. E. Nunn, of Lawton, Oklahoma, has just received a letter from her husband stating that he had been arrested at Matamoros, Mexico, by one of the fighting factions in that country and was barely rescued by the American consul.

Mr. Nunn had left Oklahoma for Brownsville, Texas, and from there had gone across the border to Matamoros to look after some business interests. There he was arrested as a spy on orders from the commanding officer of that place and was thrown into prison. He was condemned by court martial to be shot but was able to get in touch with the American consul, who after examining his passport compelled the Mexican to release him.

The New Science of Agronomy. "Farm products cost more than they used to."

"Yes," replied the farmer, "when a farmer is supposed to know the botanical name of what he's raising, the entomological name of the insect that eats it, and the pharmaceutical name of the drug that will kill it, somebody has got to pay."

PAVING BALL STARTS AGAIN

City Council Passed First Resolution of Intention to Improve Main Street; Fire Department to Clean the Paved Streets; Other Business.

The first session of the city council for the new year was held on Tuesday night with all the aldermen and many visitors present.

First crack-out of the box came the petition of the Main street property holders to macadamize the street. Much discussion followed but the upshot of the business was that the council passed a resolution setting forth their intention to pave the street, which went through with one dissenting vote. The resolution will be published as required by law and an opportunity given the objectors to protest.

It was also decided that during the bad weather the fire department should clean the paved streets with the fire hose for the reason that during the muddy weather the sweeper is very inadequate.

A petition signed by a number of the laboring men was presented asking that the paving matter be carried out for the reason that the working men of the city must either have employment or join the bread line, which they disliked to do, so read the epistle.

Other matters of minor importance came up and the regular monthly bills were allowed, and the council adjourned after a five hours session.

Mrs. Mary Davis of Twin Falls Idaho, arrived Monday afternoon to visit her brother A. G. Marvel, and family. It has been five years since they met and they are enjoying the visit very much.

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CITY MANDAMUS WAS GRANTED

Judge Rainey, Special Judge, Decided that the City Council Shall Issue Warrants to Pay One-Third of Local Justice Court Judgments; Relieves Laborers.

Sitting as a special judge to hear the case, Judge Robert L. Rainey, of Atoka, Wednesday afternoon decided that the city council should issue warrants to cover one-third of the justice court judgments obtained against the city, and for which an estimate was made in the present fiscal year budget for which taxes are now in process of collection.

This action will give much relief to the city's small local creditors, most of whom are laborers who were never paid their wages, for the reason that the payment to them at the time of employment would have been illegal. A non suit was taken as regards the larger foreign debtors, for the reason that a contest might have resulted which would have tied the matter up indefinitely.

It is stated that another petition in mandamus will be filed shortly.

The city council has steadfastly refused to issue warrants in payment of one third of the judgments, notwithstanding the fact that an estimate was made for the purpose, their reason being that the justice court was not a court of record and the council therefore had no record of authority for such an act.

The council has welcomed the filing of the petition in mandamus, and did not file an answer, but on the contrary has accepted the writ of mandamus, and will issue warrants as soon as the clerical work can be attended to. The amount so disbursed, mostly among the laboring people of the city will exceed 35 hundred dollars.

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BELGIANS ARE COMING TO U. S.

M. K. & T. Ry. Company is Promoting Campaign to Induce the People to Locate Along Its Line—They will Need Help.

It is more than probable that with co-operation a number of the better class of the Belgian farmers, really skilled agriculturists, can be induced to leave their native land, and settle in this country.

The Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway Company is promoting a plan which, if successful, will bring a number of these farmers to this section of the United States. However, there are certain inducements which must be offered by a community before an attempt will be made to further promote the immigration.

It is stated by the officials of the M. K. & T., that although a number of the farmers are able to move, and secure a start, most of them would have to have advanced to them an amount of cash and credit for the necessities to enable them to begin with the natural thriftiness of the farmers they would soon make good their obligations and in many instances buy the farms on which they live.

In other words, it is necessary that the leaders of responsible communities meet and arrange for the advancement of funds and the aid of the immigrants. It is advisable that the immigrants be located on farms as near each other as possible in order that they might have their own schools and churches. However it is not necessary that the farms be on adjoining lands.

Got His Goat.

Last Friday F. P. Cain received from Chas. R. Allen, the fine stockman, at Durant, a registered Angora buck, said to be one of the best of his breed in the state. Mr. Cain has quite a bunch of Angora ewes. He also reports that he has ten little Angora kids less than a week old that are keeping him busy during the wet weather. —Burlington Tribune.

Red River Bridge Nearly Ready

Denison Texas will be connected with Oklahoma by another wagon bridge about February 1, according to a statement made by J. C. Field, consulting engineer in charge of the construction of the new combination steel, concrete, vehicle, interurban bridge that is being erected north of Denison over Red River.

The bridge will be so constructed that an addition can be built at a very small cost that will accommodate the interurban traffic and plans have been outlined for sometime for an interurban line north out of Denison to Oklahoma points, with Oklahoma City the objective joint in view. The interurban part of the bridge will be heavy enough to accommodate a car of fifty tons, with the usual factors of safety.

Following the completion of the bridge the Red River Bridge Company, composed of Denison people, will appropriate 5 thousand dollars for the building of a south approach and furnishing crushed stone and gravel for at least two miles of road on the Oklahoma side of the river.

Oklahoma Editors to Meet.

E. S. Bronson of El Reno, Secretary of the State Press Association has called a meeting to assemble in Oklahoma City on January 12. Some matters of legislation will be considered at the meeting. The meeting has been called for this date because it is expected that a number of the editors desire to attend the inaugural ceremonies and the inaugural ball, to which they have been invited by the local committee.

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NEW COUNTY OFFICERS IN

Nickels is Again Selected Chairman of Board of County Commissioners; Bonds Approved on Monday; New Officers at Posts of Duty.

All the new county officers and deputies were sworn in Monday with but two exceptions. The present term of George Harrison, county treasurer, also, re-elected, is not out until July, as is that of County Superintendent Neoley. H. K. McIntosh will be sworn in as county superintendent at that time.

The first number on the program was the meeting of the old board of county commissioners, composed of Jim Yarbrough, J. M. Pleasant, and Grey Nickels, who administered the oaths of office to the new members of the board, composed of the following: Ed L. Spears, Durant, Ben Hultsman of Albany, and Grey Nickels of Matoy. The board organized and elected Mr. Nickels as chairman. Mr. Nickels has served as chairman for the past year on the old board. The other two are new members of the board.

They are all sound, strong business men, and will give the county a strong board of commissioners.

One of the first official acts of the new board of commissioners was the appointment of Ed Clements as janitor of the court house. There were five applicants for this job.

The bonds of the following officers were approved: Henry McCreary, county clerk; W. A. Jones, court clerk; Walter J. Turnbull, county attorney; J. L. Rappaport county judge, John A. Phillips, sheriff, W. H. Yeats county assessor.

The following bonds for township justices of the peace were approved: Dan H. Collins, township No. 5, G. W. Jones, township No. 9; John Ausley, township No. 4. Constables as follows: Township 4, A. M. Goodman; Township 5, A. L. Cordall; Township No. 11, S. W. Adams; Township No. 1, Z. T. Serner and J. D. Early; Township No. 3, R. J. Howard. The remaining officers filed their bonds Monday afternoon and will betaken up for approval with the regular business of the new commissioners.

The following deputies were appointed and their bonds approved: For the county clerk, John Finney, Chief Deputy; Annie Kellar and L. P. Smith; For Sheriff, Dave Wright and Clyde Norman; A. M. Wan and Will Dickson as jailors; For court clerk, Lacy Grimes and Maude Hagood. The commissioners will be in session for some time.

The new officer took charge of their respective offices Monday afternoon and start to work on the business for the next two years with the best wishes of every citizen.

Child Dies En Route to Durant.

Asad incident occurred Sunday afternoon when Mr. and Mrs. Jodie Lankford were returning from Platt, accompanied by the wife and two months-old son of Mr. Lankford's brother, E. C. Lankford, of Platt, when the baby died about 6 o'clock, near Calera. The mother and the child were neither well but the physicians thought it would be alright to bring the baby to Durant. They had intended coming here to the home of Jodie Lankford where they would be closer to a physician.

The funeral was conducted at the home of Jodie Lankford, 916 West Main Street, by Rev. J. N. Edwards, Monday afternoon at three o'clock, followed by interment in Highland Cemetery.

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JANUARY SALE

Suits, Overcoats and Heavy Footwear

There are no such values in Suits and Overcoats as our \$17 values, now selling at **\$9.85**
Neither can you beat \$25 values in Suits and Overcoats at **14.85**
Men's Odd Pants, \$4.00 and \$4.50 values, are now going at **3.45**

Heavy Winter Footwear January Sale Prices

While all kinds of leather are advancing, and shoes and boots are worth 10c to 50c a pair more, we offer our high-grade brands of Winter Footwear at these unusual prices:

\$9.00 Smoked Elk Bootee, 18-in. top, full leather lined, waterproof, best bootee for \$10, but now on sale at \$7.15
Connelly's \$7.50 Cowboy Boots now on sale at 6.45
\$7.00 White Elk and Tan Elk 18-in. Lace Bootee, 18-in. top, flexible as a glove, now 5.45
Genuine \$6.00 Hocker Bootee, full kid lined, both vici and calf, now 4.85
Heavy Work Shoes, sold everywhere at \$3.00 and \$3.50, now 2.45

These are New Stock, fully guaranteed to satisfy. See them—Try them on, at

DURANT Mercantile Co.
GOOD THINGS TO WEAR

BIG BEN

What Does He Do?